

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 5667 號七十六百六十五第 日五旬月二十年亥乙緒光

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 1876.

五年緒 號一十二月正英 港香

PRICE \$2 PER MONTH.

Arrivals.

JANUARY 20, DOUGLAS, British str., 364, M. Burne, Foochow 16th January, Amoy 17th, and Swatow 19th, General—D. LAPEAK & Co.
January 20, FESTO, British bark, 384, Laidman, Whampoa 18th January, General—A. SCHNEIDER & Co.
January 20, GLOMUS, British bark, 344, Laidman, Whampoa 18th January, General—A. SCHNEIDER & Co.
January 20, COLUMBIA, British bark, 344, Solano, Sydney 14th Dec., Coats—RESELL & Co.
January 20, FELIX, Danish bark, 200, Obrikenszen, Whampoa 18th January, General—D. SCHNEIDER & Co.
January 20, HOW-SANG, Chinese str., 800, N. Lamont, Canton 1st January, General—C. M. S. N. Co.

Clearances.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE,
JANUARY 20TH.
Pardo, str., for Saigon
Scotia, for Taku.
General, for Bangkok.
Forces de la Roquette, for Bangkok.
Halong, str., for Swatow, &c.
Rajah, str., for Swatow.
Capra, for New York.
How-sang, str., for Shanghai.

Departures.

JANUARY 20, ARIONA, str., for Shanghai.
JANUARY 20, CHIVATY, str., for Bangkok.
JANUARY 20, FU-KEW, str., for Canton.
JANUARY 20, KASIGAL, str., for Singapore, Bombay, &c.
JANUARY 20, Chinese gunboat PENG-CHAO-HAI, for a cruise.

Passengers.

ARRIVED.
Per Pardo, str., from East Coast—
Messrs. Paoing and Gruner.

To Depart.

Per Pardo, str., for Saigon—
30 Chinese.
Per Halcong, str., for Swatow, &c.—
30 Chinese.
Per Rajah, str., for Swatow—
30 Chinese.
Per How-sang, str., for Shanghai—
30 Chinese.

Reports.

The British bark *Cobrasa* reports left Sydney on 14th December. Experienced fine weather and SW. winds to the Equator, which was crossed on the 4th instant; since then strong gales and fine weather. Off the South of China passed a Dutch bark, name unknown, bound North.

The British steamship *Douglas* reports left Foochow on 16th January, Amoy on the 17th, and Swatow on the 19th. Experienced strong winds and heavy weather throughout. At 2.30 p.m. on the 16th, passed the Company's steamer *Yeo* at the entrance to the River Min. In 17th, passed a German gun-boat *Cyclone*. In Amoy, German frigate *Ariadna*. In Swatow, str. Amoy and Scotian.

AMOY-ARRIVALS.

JANUARY 1st, str. Leonor, from Santos, Zambanga from Hongkong; 2nd, str. Hwang from Swatow, Amur from Taku, Droning, Leonor from Chefoo, Prosperity from Chefoo; 3rd, str. Douglas from Foochow, str. Foochow from Shanghai; 4th, Diamant from Chefoo, str. Swatow from Swatow; 5th, str. Namco from Hongkong; 6th, Catharine from Chefoo; 7th, Foochow; 8th, Amur; 9th, Hwang; 10th, str. Nancos from Foochow, str. Leonor from Taku; 11th, str. Droning from Hongkong; 12th, str. Amur; 13th, str. Nancos from Foochow; 14th, str. Leonor from Taku; 15th, str. Droning from Hongkong; 16th, str. Leonor from Taku; 17th, str. Leonor from Taku; 18th, str. Droning from Hongkong; 19th, str. Leonor from Taku; 20th, str. Leonor from Taku; 21st, str. Leonor from Taku; 22nd, str. Leonor from Taku; 23rd, str. Leonor from Taku; 24th, str. Leonor from Taku; 25th, str. Leonor from Taku; 26th, str. Leonor from Taku; 27th, str. Leonor from Taku; 28th, str. Leonor from Taku; 29th, str. Leonor from Taku; 30th, str. Leonor from Taku; 31st, str. Leonor from Taku.

AMOY-DEPARTURES.

JANUARY 3rd, Japan for Taku, str. Douglas for Foochow, Constantine Wilson for Taku, str. Meridian for Ningpo; str. Leonor for Taku; str. Droning for Taku; 4th, Otto for Taku, str. Foochow for Santos, str. Leonor for Ningpo; str. Maria for Taku; str. Nestor for Foochow; str. Paul for Singapore, str. Nestor for Foochow; 5th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 6th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 7th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 8th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 9th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 10th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 11th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 12th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 13th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 14th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 15th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 16th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 17th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 18th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 19th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 20th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 21st, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 22nd, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 23rd, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 24th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 25th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 26th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 27th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 28th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 29th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 30th, str. Kwangtung from Foochow; 31st, str. Kwangtung from Foochow.

FOOCHOW-ARRIVALS.

(From *Hedges & Co.'s Weekly Shipping Report*, Pegu Anchorage, 15th January.)
January 6th, str. Kwangtung from Hongkong; 10th, San Francisco from Chefoo; 11th, str. Foochow from Hongkong; 12th, Nadezhda from Amoy; 13th, str. Douglas from Hongkong, str. Nancos from Shangha.

FOOCHOW-DEPARTURES.

January 8th, Fidelio for Taku; 9th, str. Nancos for Hongkong; 10th, str. Kwangtung for Hongkong; str. Foochow for Shangha.

Vessels that have arrived in Europe from Ports in China, Japan and Manchuria.

(For last Month's Advice.)

Agents.—Amoy, Canton, etc.

NOW READY.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
FOR 1876,
With which is incorporated
"THE CHINA DIRECTORY."THIS Work, in the FOURTEENTH
year of its existence, is
NOW READY FOR SALE.It has been compiled and printed at the
Daily Press Office, as usual, from the best
and most authentic sources, and no pains
have been spared to make the work com-
plete in all respects.In addition to the usual varied and
valuable information, the "CHRONICLE
AND DIRECTORY FOR 1876" contains a
CHROMO-LITHOGRAPHOF
PLAN OF VICTORIA, HONGKONG;
THE
FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF
SHANGAI.A Chromo-Lithograph Plate of the
NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT
THE PEAK;

also of

THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS
(Designed expressly for the Work);
MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN,THE
P. & O. COMPANY'S ROUTES,
AND
THE COAST OF CHINA;ALSO, THE
NEW CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE—

HONGKONG;

besides other local information and statistics corrected to date of publication, tending to make this Work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

The present Volume also contains a
Directory of Singapore.The CHRONICLE and DIRECTORY is
now the only publication of its kind for
China and Japan.The Directory is published in two
Forms—Complete at \$5; or, with the Lists
of Residents, Port Directors, Maps, &c.,
at \$3.Orders for Copies may be sent to the Daily
Press Office, or to the following Agents—MACAO.....Mr. J. P. de Silva.
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ST. JOHN'S.....Messrs. Wilson, Nicholson & Co.
TORONTO.....Messrs. Wilson, Nicholson & Co.
COOCHIN.....Messrs. Hedge & Co.
NANKING.....Messrs. Kelly & Co., Shanghai.
SHANGAI.....Messrs. Hall & Holt.
HANKOW and I. M. MEASLES, Hall & Holt and Kelly
RIVER PORTS.....& Co., Shanghai.CHEFOU.....Messrs. Hall & Holt and Kelly
NANKING.....Messrs. Hall & Holt and Kelly
TENGWU.....Messrs. Hall & Holt and Kelly
PEKING.....J. T. & Co., Shanghai.
NAGASAKI.....The C. and J. Trading Co.,
HOKKO, OKA, OSAKA, and J. T. & Co.,
YOKOHAMA.....Messrs. Lane, Gray & Co.,
YOKOHAMA.....Mr. G. D. Ross, Japan Office.MANILA.....Messrs. J. & J. G. Coates & Co.
SINGAPORE.....Messrs. Liddell and Martin.
LONDON.....Mr. F. Algar, Clement's Lane.
LONDON.....Mr. G. Street, 30 Cornhill.
LONDON.....Messrs. Bates, Henry & Co.
SAN FRANCISCO.....Mr. L. P. Fisher, Merchants' Exchange.NEW YORK.....Messrs. S. M. Putnam & Co.,
37 Park Row.

Hongkong, January 3rd, 1876.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 21st, 1876.

It is giving utterance to something very like a truism, perhaps, to say that the laws are intended by the Legislature to afford protection and encouragement to honest and lawful trade. No one doubts the good intentions of the Legislature, or supposes for a moment that it would sanction the passing of a measure likely, in any sense, to prove detrimental to the interests of commerce, or to impair the mercantile community generally. Yet it sometimes happens that a measure conceived with the very best intentions not only fails to effect the good it was framed to accomplish, but, by some defect or omission in its construction, proves an assistance to rogues and swindlers in preying upon a too credulous public. The Bankruptcy Law of this Colony is a case in point. It was designed for the assistance and relief of honest but unfortunate traders; it has become a useful medium by which unprincipled and penniless adventurers can, by the exercise of sufficient impudence and boldness, cut dash at the expense of their dupes, and, when their credit is exhausted, fall back upon the refuge which the Court affords, ultimately coming out clear of liability. Latterly we have had pretty numerous proofs of the fact that the Bankruptcy Law is much abused in Hongkong, and it is evident to all that some amendment of it is urgently necessary.

In England there differs with that in force in this Colony in one particular which is, we consider, essential to the equitable working.

It is imperative in England that, individual, before he can obtain his discharge, must pay 10s. in the pound, or show that his creditors have agreed to accept a smaller sum. He does not obtain protection as a matter of course. This granted, the bankrupt is safe from arrest. In England there is comparatively little opportunity for his escape, as with most countries we have a treaty under which his condition could be procured. Here, on the contrary, there are great and unusual facilities for fraudulent bankrupts to defraud while holding a protection order. To the Chinese, indeed, nothing is easier. They can take a passage in a native boat, and in a few hours be safe from all pursuit on the mainland. We have no regular treaty with China, which would assist us in Bankruptcy, and even if such existed it is doubtful whether, for any practical purpose, it would be worth the paper on which it was written. The facility with which these protection orders are obtainable is manifestly a weak point in the present law of this Colony, since it gives fraudulent bankrupts an opportunity of evading what they are often unable to face—the final examination.

In the interests of merchants and the commercial community generally, some amendment should be made in the law in this respect,

It is monstrous that a speculative son of Han should be able to come over to Hongkong with a cool determination to spoil the inhabitants, and, through a weakness in the colonial law, find no difficulty in carrying out his iniquitous design. Fancy a cut-throat Chinaman in Hongkong with hardly a dollar to his name entering into extensive transactions on credit, quietly transmitting the proceeds to friends in his own country, and in process of time declaring himself insolvent and applying to the Court for protection under the Bankruptcy Ordinance. Having obtained a protection order, which gives him time to put his chattels or effects together, he takes his departure for home, leaving his acquaintances to sing "Oh! where, Oh! where," has he gone? Some people will, perhaps, be inclined to deem this impossible; but similar cases have actually occurred under the signs of the Bankruptcy Law in this Colony. For this evil state of affairs, however, a remedy might, we think, be found.

His Lordship asked the jury if it was their wish that he should proceed with his summing up, or that it should be deferred until after the Foreman replied that the jury were prepared with a verdict.

His Lordship then briefly commented upon the evidence.

The Jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty," and the prisoner was discharged.

He Afa, a lad, pleaded guilty to stealing money, jewelry, and other property, to the amount of \$457, the property of his employer, Francisco Angelo, keeper of the Recreation Club.

In answer to His Lordship, the prosecutor said he had recovered all of the property, with the exception of \$100 and Be. 7. The boy was his brother, and he had given him \$100 a month.

His Lordship—What could you expect?

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At the present time by compelling a debtor to pay his creditors 50 cents in the dollar before he can claim his discharge. In the meanwhile, call upon him to give security to the extent of 50 cents in the dollar, taking into consideration the assets of the estate, that he will conform to the law in every respect. After doing this, let him have protection from the Court. If he really has been an honest but unfortunate man, and there was no likelihood of his disappearing before his final examination, he would find no difficulty in complying with this; while, on the other hand, the reckless speculator, with other people's money would be baffled in his attempt to shirk the consequences of his misdeeds, and, in default of being able to conform to the law, could be placed by his creditor or the Court in the debtor's gal until he could obtain his final discharge or give security. Some such simple amendment might surely be introduced without much difficulty. It would, we are confident, have a most beneficial effect on the trade of the Colony, by putting a check upon the utterly reckless system of trading which has in past times, under shelter of the Bankruptcy Law, been carried on.

Adventure might hesitate in embarking on a career of speculation if they knew it was impracticable to obtain an easy passage through the Court without meeting the consequences of their acts or giving to their creditors and the Court the fullest information regarding their transactions. This is only a suggestion, which we think the legal Authorities would do well to consider.

A DEFENSE.

Elphinstone, in H.M.'s 33d Regiment, was charged with desertion.

Inspector Cameron said the prisoner came to the charge room and gave himself up, as a deserter from H.M.'s 33d Regiment. He said he belonged to No. 7 company, of which Captain Jones was the officer, and he deserted in India.

The prisoner had deserted in Poona in 1863, to Bombay, from whence he proceeded to Singapore. He had been here about six months, and was now in Hongkong. He came again on Saturday last from Bangkok.

He had been turned out of his ship, and in consequence gave himself up.

The prisoner was remanded to gaol pending instructions from the Military Authorities.

CHARGE OF MAJORICIOUS DAMAGE.

A chief officer named Johnson was charged with entering the storeroom of the Salvo Hotel, with intent to commit, and destroying the oil paintings, the property of an officer named Clark, now serving as third officer in the steamship Mecca, which left here on the morning of the 17th instant, bound for Achon.

Mr. Shuster, steward of the Salvo Hotel, said the deceased was a man of good character, and had been a good sailor for a time, and then doctored about 30 miles farther south, and then doctored himself short of coal, saying that he must return to Shanghai to replenish, notwithstanding which he afterwards went to junk to Shanghai.

Chinese Sergeant Yew Aow was then called, and he had been sent over to the Kowloon Docks to make enquiry. After corroborating Inspector Horowitz's statement, he said the husband of the deceased was a marine-store dealer. He then confronted the wife of the deceased, who, according to all she said, had been a widow for a long time, and was living at the house of her son, Mr. Clark, now serving as third officer in the steamship Mecca, which left here on the morning of the 17th instant, bound for Achon.

The Coroner told her that it was evident she was losing her character as a tradeswoman.

The oil paintings were taken from the cabin of the deceased, and he had been sent over to the Kowloon Docks to make enquiry. After corroborating Inspector Horowitz's statement, he said the husband of the deceased was a marine-store dealer. He then confronted the wife of the deceased, who, according to all she said, had been a widow for a long time, and was living at the house of her son, Mr. Clark, now serving as third officer in the steamship Mecca, which left here on the morning of the 17th instant, bound for Achon.

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USUAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.
The death of the author of *The Man* is not, as has been stated, from a heart attack.

On the 14th ult. Madame Julie Schubert, the Jeanneaud, a sister of the wife of Mousset, died at Leipzig.

Mr. Swinburne has almost completed a new play for closet reading. The subject is drawn from an old Greek legend.

Mr. Sturtz's musical copyright has just been sold by Putnam & Simpson, London, to Ward, Lock & Bowles, and realised a total of £11,000.

Negotiations are in progress to obtain from Wagner permission for the German opera troupe, who will visit Drury Lane next season, to play his operas.

Mr. Irving's answer to the strictures upon his performance of "Macbeth," will we are told, come from Mr. O'Hallor so soon as the run of "Macbeth" is over.

Mr. Gilbert's new "fairy-comedy," entitled "Brooks Harts," has been twice presented at the Court Theatre, and was to be produced on the 8th of December. It is in three acts and in blank verse.

Mrs. Theodore Martin (Helen Foucault) was to play the part of December in her husband's drama "Eline" at the Royal English Theatre. Mr. and Mrs. Kendall and Mr. Trolle were to appear.

A Marseilles journal states that the tenor Berbot, well known at the opera of that town and at Lyons and Brussels, has just been placed in a lunatic asylum. He was seized with mental derangement a fortnight ago during a performance of "La Gioconda."

An interesting present has been made to the German Emperor by some inhabitants of Berlin. It consists of a collection of autograph manuscripts by celebrated composers, and includes two quartets by Spohr, a piano-forte piece by Thalberg; an Italian air, with orchestra and accompaniment, by Weber; a symphony by Schubert; and other works.

Two operas have been several times pro-
duced in St. Louis, and either deserve to stand to their credit or tend to dis-
credit them in those usually ascribed to the real Simon Pure had little part. The discussion about

"Macbeth" has shown, on what we may call the key-note of the play, was not struck by the great dramatist. In fact, there is hardly a line the authenticity of which is not doubtful, according to their nationality and in connection with their characters, so that every party should under the rule of its oligarchy, who should levy the amount of taxes demanded by the Government from its district. This system, adopted by Russia for eighty years, advocates the subordination of administrative, judicial, and financial privileges of the different provinces to those of the central government.

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PROFESSOR VON SYBEL ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.

Professor Heinrich von Sybel, the eminent historian, recently delivered a lecture at the monthly meeting of the National Liberal Party on the Eastern Question, which, owing to the position of the Ottoman Empire, and the Imperial Government, was a subject of special interest. I must also remark that it is curiously misnamed in political circles that the proposal renewed by professor Sybel for solving the Eastern Question will play an important part in the approaching diplomatic negotiations. Altera very interesting historical review of the power of the Turk in Europe in Europe, Professor Sybel referred to the acquisitions made after the Ottomans war for ameliorating the state of affairs in the Balkan peninsula. One of these, never definitely proposed, aimed at the re-establishment of the old Ottoman form of government, by attenuating the power of the Mahomedans and thereby connecting some slight security to the Balkan Peninsula. The second, was to make truly Islam Mahomedan. This is in direct opposition to the Kome and its prescriptions in its favour; but it is also certain that the same means by which the Mahomedans consolidated their empire in the sixteenth century would produce its destruction in the nineteenth century.

The white of the Eastern Question is the white of the Turk. The second, was to make the Balkan Peninsula a Mahomedan dominion. This is in direct opposition to the Kome and its prescriptions in its favour;

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

TUESDAY, 20th January.

The market for Bengal drapery has been firm to day, with sales of New Pata at \$3042, and Indigo shorts placed at \$185. Sales of Bengal muslins also at \$367, and select cloths at \$374.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON

